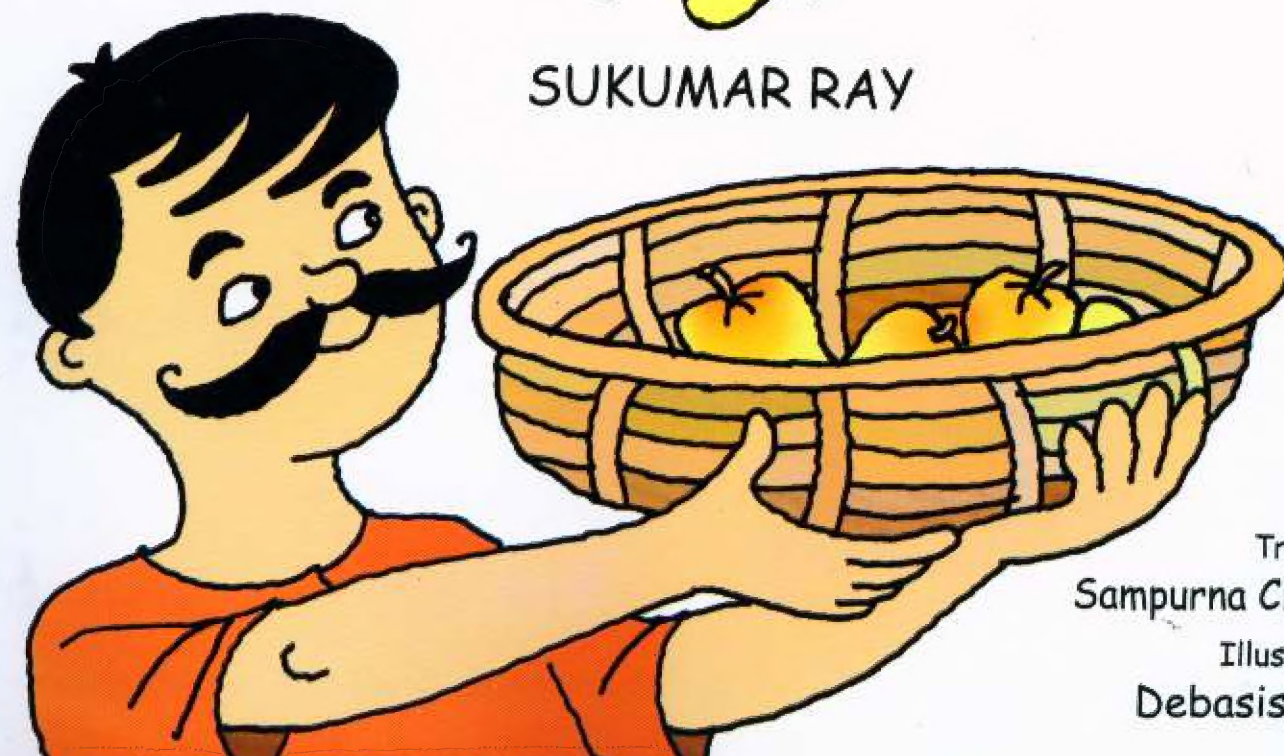




RIPE and READY



SUKUMAR RAY



Translation
Sampurna Chatarji
Illustrations
Debasish Deb

Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

Ripe and Ready

Sukumar Ray

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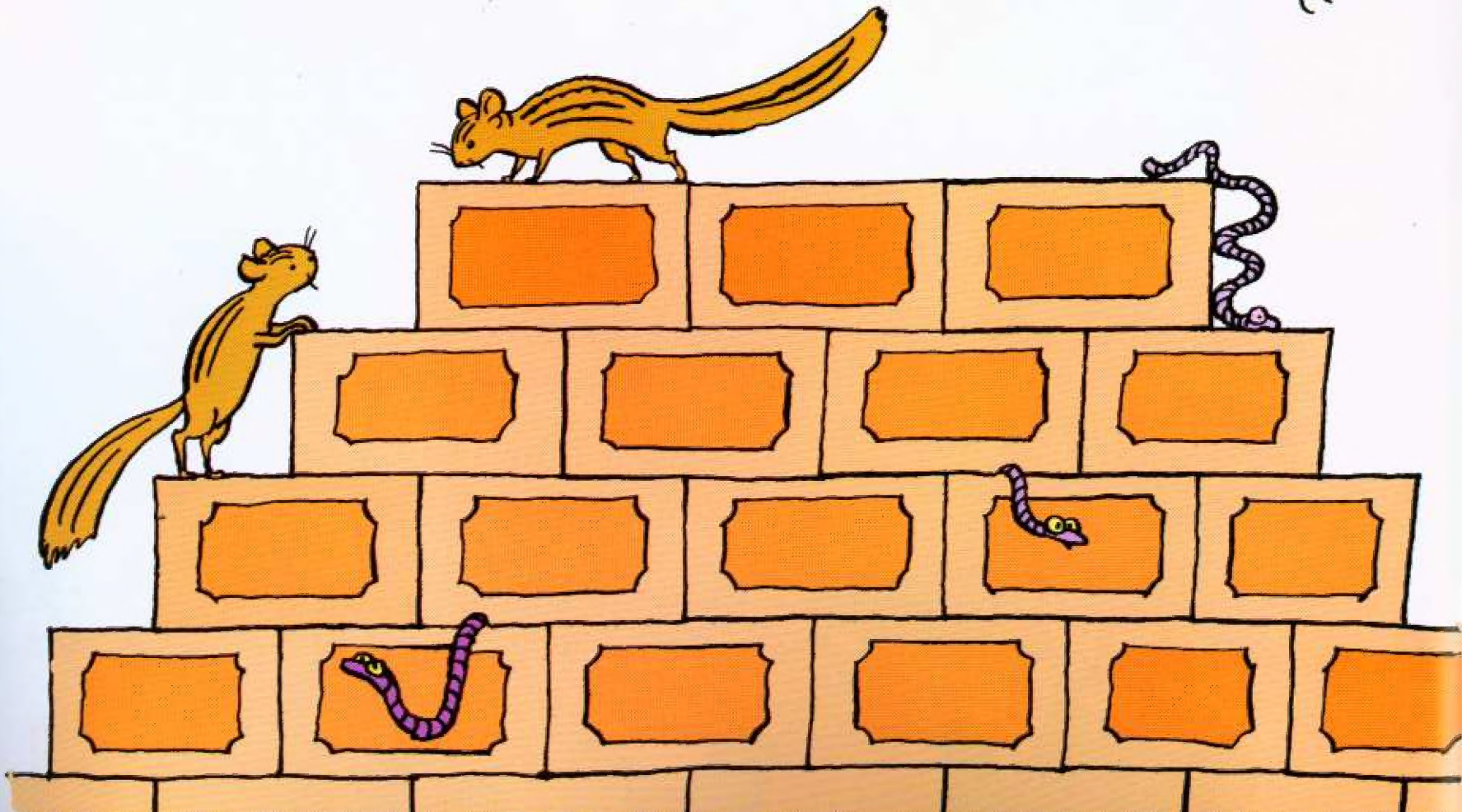


Berries ripen in March, they say

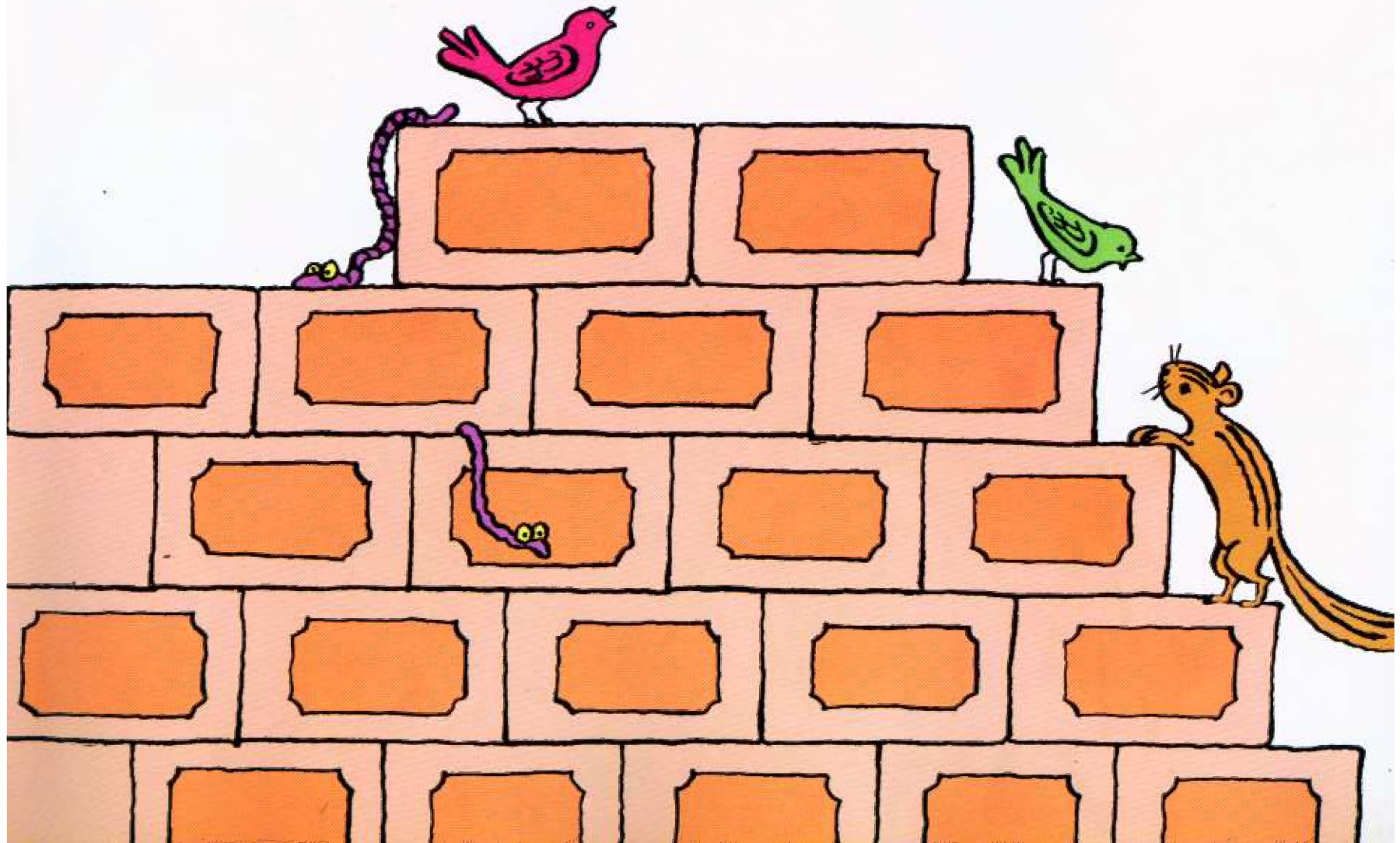


mangoes
ripen in may!

Raw bricks **ripen** slowly



in a burning kiln of clay.



Colours that leak in water





are unripened, unsteady



which is why they run . . .



Grey hair spells a **ripe** old age of wisdom begotten.





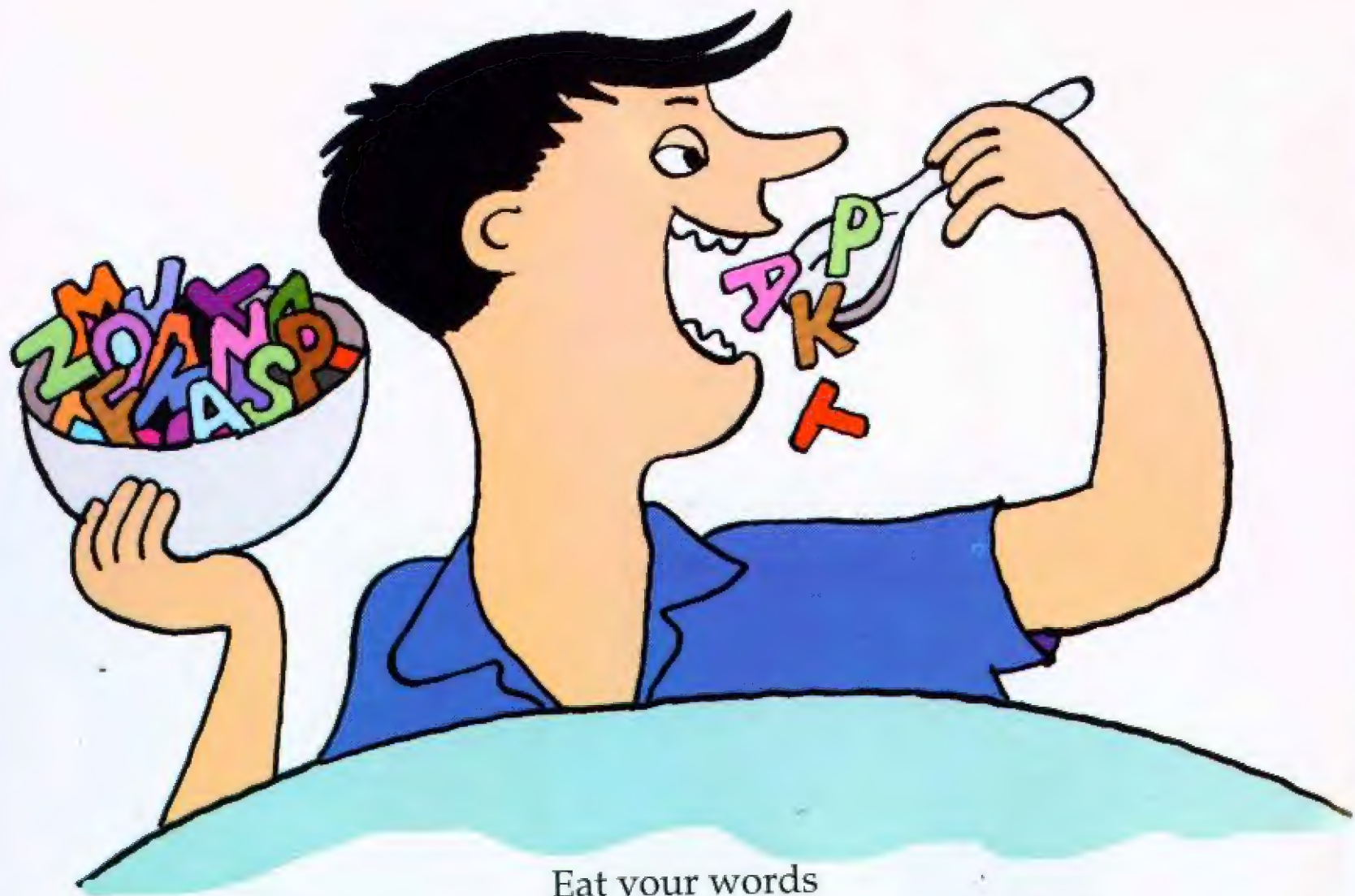
The boy that **ripens** too fast
is most likely to be rotten.

Too many **overripe** cooks



always spoil the broth.





Eat your words

watch your brain start to fume and froth!



Ears **ripen**, boils **ripen**
and ooh how much
they ache . . .



He whose words are half-baked, is such a total fake.



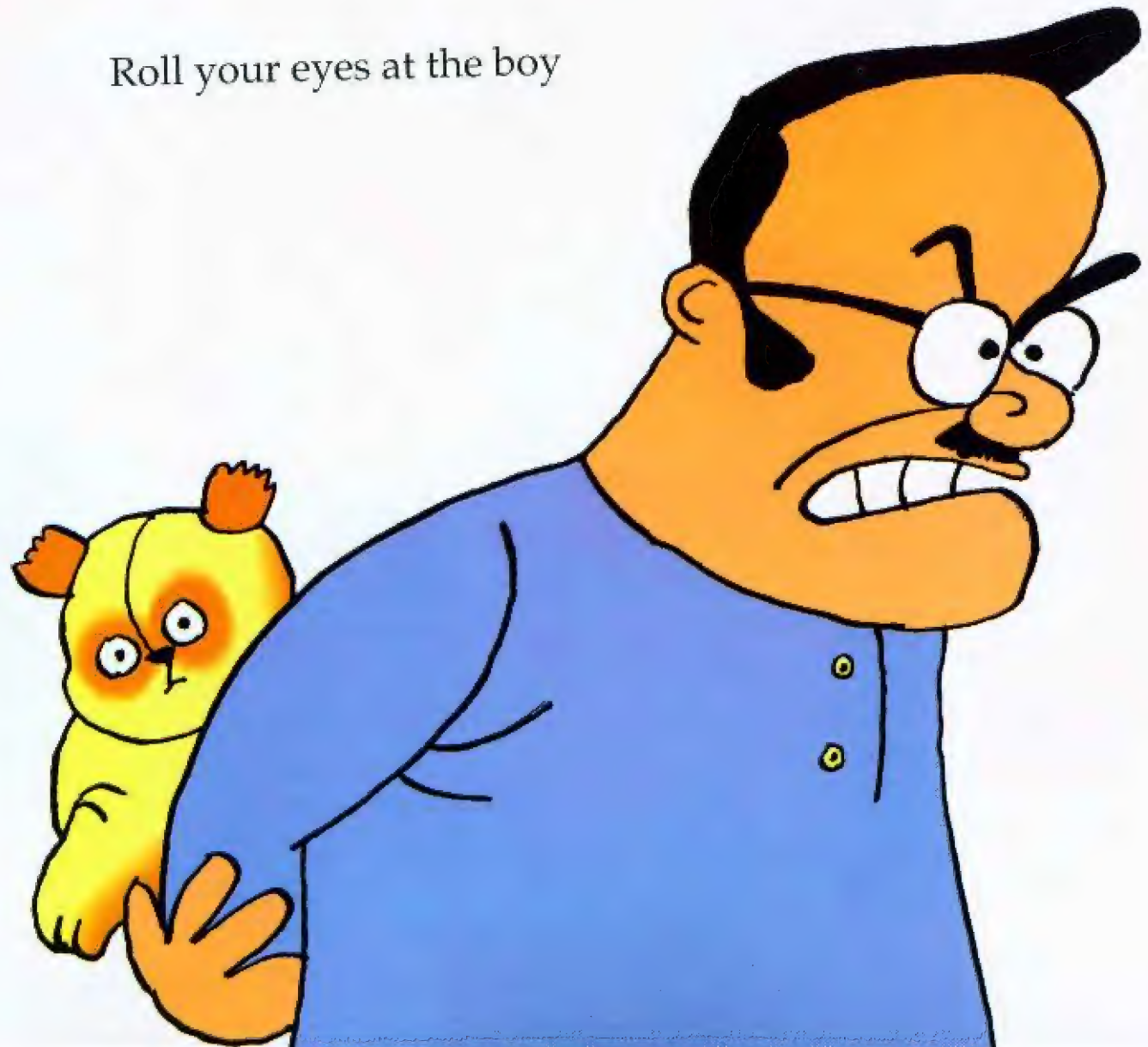
The cook stirs the stew-pot



till it's ripe and ready!



Roll your eyes at the boy

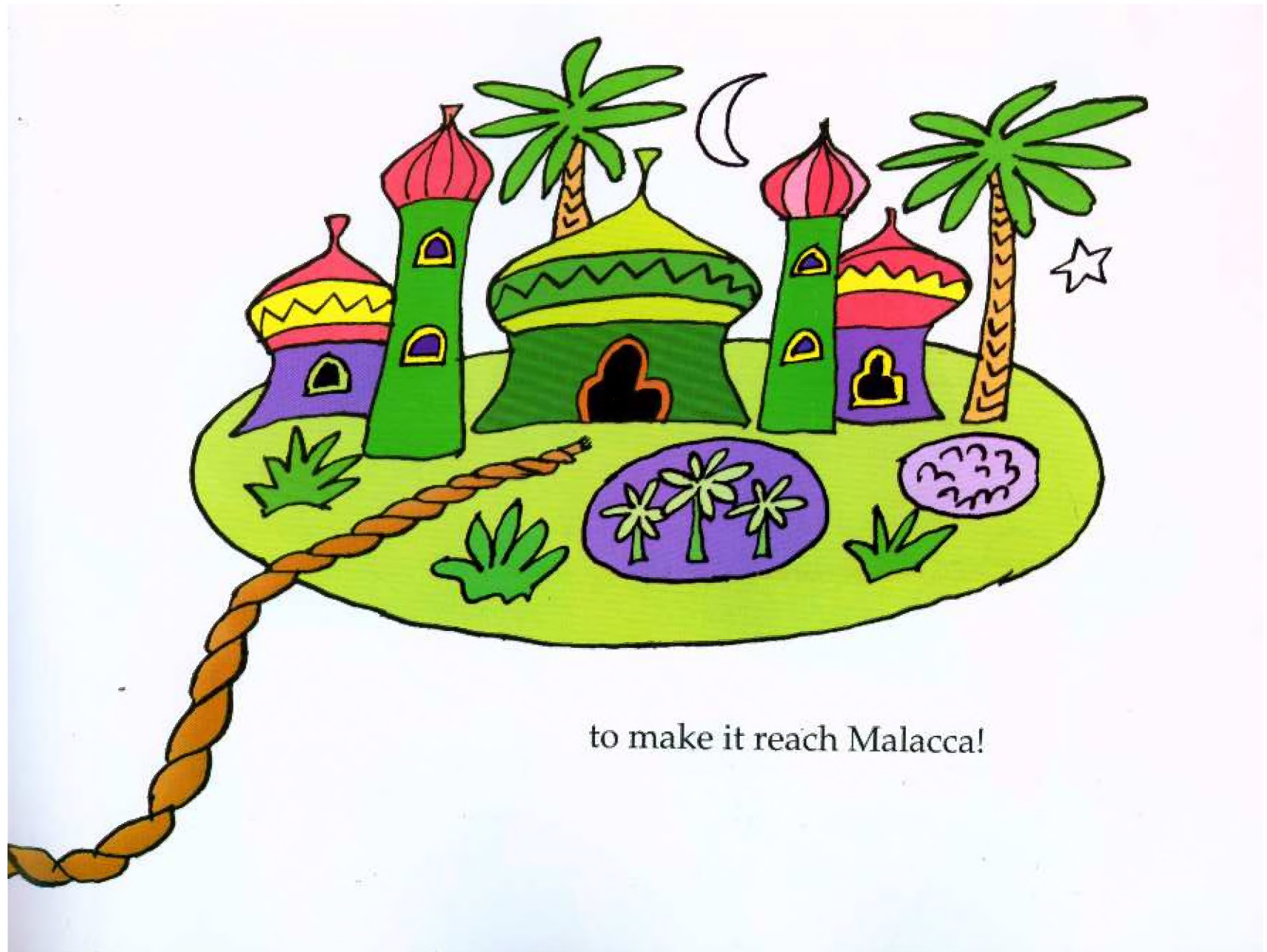


till he cries for teddy.



Twist and twirl the rugged rope





to make it reach Malacca!

Twist and twirl your moustache to make yourself look **pucca**.





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